

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 101501Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9974

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA POUCH

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSYAMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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DEPT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: NA

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SUBJECT: JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT: GOE BORES IN ON SYRIAN-JORDANIAN

"TREACHERY" TO PLO

REF: CAIRO 1684

SUMMARY. GLANCE AT CAIRO MORNING PAPERS FEBRUARY 10 SHOWS GOE IS WINDING ISELF UP FOR CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT SYRIA, SA'IQA AND JORDAN. ISSUE CHOSEN, RECONVENING OF JORDANIAN PARTLIAMENT, IS FIRST ISSUE TO ARISE SINCE SINAI II, WHICH ALLOWS EGYPTIANS TO TAKE PLO PART AGAINST SARG, AND CAIRO JOURNALISTS ARE SHARPENING THEIR PENS, BUOYED BY FATAHS DETERMINATION TO REJECT HUSAIN ACTION TOTALLY. END SUMMARY.

1. EGYPTIAN MEDIA BROKE SILENCE ON RECONVENING OF JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT FEBRUARY 9, SHOTGUNNING ACCUSATIONS THAT SYRIA, SA'IQA, AND JORDAN HAD UNDERCUT PLO POSITION, SANCTIFIED AT RABAT, AS SOLE PRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINTIANS (REFTEL). MEDIA FEBRUARY 10 REFINE CHARGES SOMEWHAT, REVEALING GOE INTENTION GEAR UP FOR NEW MEDIA CAMPAIGN, TO BE BASED ON FIRST ISSUE WITH REAL PROPAGANDA POSSIBILITIES TO ARISE SINCE SINAI II. GOE INTENT IS, PRINCIPALLY, TO DISCREDIT SYRIA AND SECONDARILY TO DRIVE WEDGE INTO PLO BY DISCREDITING SYRIA'S PALESTINIAN CLIENTS AND BY LENDING EGYPT'S PRESTIGE TO "CORRECT" POSITION OF FATAH AND ITS

MAIN-LINE PLO ALLIES.

2. TONE OF PRESS TREATMENT IS SUMMARIZED IN AHRAH HEADLINES: "JORDAN AFFIRMS INVITIATION TO PARLIAMENT HAD PLO APPROVAL... PLO DENIESTHIS; WEST BANK DEPUTIES DECLARE ON RETURN FROM AMMAN THAT SYRIA APPROVED KING'S PLANS IN RETURN FOR HIS OPPOSITION TO SINAI AGREEMENT." RAPPORTAGE IS CENTERED ON PREVIOUS DAY EVENTS IN CAIRO AND IS OPENLY SLANTED AGAINST SARG AND PLO.

A. GOJ EXPLANATION. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR WHO RETURNED FEBRUARY 9 TO AMMAN ON CONSULTATION, DELIVERED NOTE TO ARAB LEGAUE CLAIMING PLO ONE MONTH AGO APPROVED GOJ DECISION INVITE PARLIAMENT CONVENE. NOTE REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED GOJ INTENTION WAS TO AVOID HARMING PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND TO SAFEGUARD WEST BANK'S ARABISM.

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B. PLO COUNTERS. TO COUNTER GOJ NOTE, PLO SUBMITTED ITS OWN NOTE TO ARAB LEAGUE REPORTEDLY DENYING JORDANIAN ALLEGATION PLO HAD ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF HUSAIN'S DECISION. FURTHER, NOTE DENIED ANY CONSULTATIONS WERE CONDUCTED WITH PLO ON ISSUE. HUSAIN'S DECISION PROVES HIS FAILURE COMMIT HIMSELF TO RABAT RESOLUTION AND HIS INTENTIONS STRENGTHEN HKJ PRESENCE ON WAST BANK ON EVE HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON. HUSAIN SPENDS "LARGE SUMS OF MONEY" ON WEST

BANK TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION WITH OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES.
PLO CAIRO OFFICE HEAD SURANI, WHO SUBMITTED NOTE TOGETHER WITH
FATAH HEAD IN AIRO RIBBI AWAD, IS QUOTED AS PRAISING EGYPTIAN
STAND IN CONSOLIDATING PLO'S LEGITIMATE POSITION AS SOLE
PALESTINIAN REP. JORDANIAN MOVE REPRESENTS "ABORTING"
OF PALESTINIANS' INTERNATIONAL VICTORIES.

C. ARAFAT MESSAGE TO ARAB LEAGUE. DURING FEBRUARY 9
PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SESSION, SADAT'S BROTHER-IN-LAW ABU
WAFIYA, ANNOUNCED ARAFAT HAD SENT MESSAGE TO ARAB LEAGUE SYG
RIAD SAYING JORDANIANS HAVE ABANDONED PLO AND REQUESTING EGYPT
AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES TO "COUNTER ACT" THIS PLOT, WHICH WAS
HATCHED IN COOPERATION WITH SYRAIN BA'ATH.

3. EDITORIALS HAMMER AWAY AT SAME ISSUE. AKHBAR IS MOST
SPECIFIC, ALLEGING PLO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS OWN SETBACK
SINCE IT VOLUNTARILY PLACED ITSELF BETWEEN JORDANIAN AND
SYRIAN PINCHERS; WHEN PINCHERS CLOSED, PLO CRIED FOR EGYPT'S
HELP. HUSAIN HAD COORECTLY EXPECTED PLO INTERNAL DIFFERENCES
AND SYRIAN MANEUVERING WOULD ENSURE SPLIT IN PLO SO THAT HE COULD
ACT AGAINST RABAT DECISION.

4. GOE, WHICH AT LAST HAS DRAMATIC PROPAGANDA ISSUE
AT HAND WITH WHICH TO CASTIGATE SYRIANS, SA' 8-1, AND HUSAIN,
IS WEIGHING IN WITH MORE THAN PRESS CAMPAIGN. PEOPLES
ASSEMBLY'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ARAB COMMITTEES WILL MEET
IN SPECIAL SESSION FEBRUARY 12 TO DISCUSS "CRISIS" BETWEEN
JORDAN AND PLO AND PLO COMPLAINT TO ARAB LEAGUE ABOUT
JORDAN. FONMIN FAHMY WILL "EXPLAIN" TO COMMITTEE JORDAN'S
STAND TOWARD THE RESISTANCE.

5. CAIROMEDIA ALSO FEATURE FAHMY'S INTERVIEW WITH
YUGOSLAV TELEVISION (SEPTTEL), IN WHICH HE COMES DOWN
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STRONGLY ON SIDE OF PLO PRESENCE IN GENEVA "FROM THE
VERY BEGINNING" AND EMPHASIZES THAT RABAT DECISION
IS COMPELLING FACTOR RE WHO REPRESENTS PALESTINIANS. ONLY
ARABS (I.E. , ARAB SUMMIT) CAN PRONOUNCE, FAHMY SAID POINTEDLY,
ON WHO REPRESENTS PALESTINAIANS.

6. COMMENT: WE CAN EXPECT MORE OF THIS KIND OF
HEAVY-HANDED ATTACK ON SYRIA, JORDAN, AND SA'IQA COUPLED WITH
TRANSPARENT BIDDING FOR SUPPORT OF ARAFAT AND MODERATE PLO.
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